

IV. Remarks

Claims 1-21 are pending in this case. Of these, claims 1-12 are canceled by this paper, while claims 13-21 are newly added. The newly added claims are directed toward various embodiments of a hand-held device for gripping objects positioned beyond arm's length disclosed in the application as filed. Accordingly, no new matter is submitted by this paper.

Applicant proposes a new Abstract in view of the newly added claims. This Abstract is in compliance with the form and content requirement for abstracts generally, including as set out in the Official Action to which this paper is responsive.

Applicant has amended the written specification to address the examiner's objections to the drawings, and has further amended FIG. 3b to identify the previously omitted reference numeral 56.

While Applicant does not acquiesce in the examiner's rejection of any of the now-canceled claims 1-12 in view of the cited prior art, those rejections are respectfully submitted to be moot in view of the newly presented claims, all of which patentably define over the prior art of record, taken alone or in any permissible combination.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application stands in condition for immediate allowance. Of course, the examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel at (734) 662-0270 should he have any questions respecting this paper, or if a telephone interview might otherwise expedite the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,


Christopher A. Mitchell
Reg. No. 40,729

DATED: September 19, 2006